

PREMIER SIGNAL

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 311TH SIGNAL COMMAND

REBALANCING FOR ASIA-PACIFIC STABILITY

78th Sig Bn
Typhoon Haiyan
Relief

PLWN 2020 -
Innovative
Solutions



PREMIER SIGNAL

Volume 7—SUMMER 2014 Edition



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Front cover illustration by Spc. Nikko-Angelo Matos

(On Right) Soldiers conduct 10-mile ruck march as part of the annual 311th Signal Command (Theater) Best Warrior Competition May 9-13, 2013. Soldiers participating in the competition were challenged by many virgorous mental and physical events including an obstacle course and formal board. Photo by Spc. Jacob Kohrs.

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Want your story heard?

The goal of the 311th Signal Command's Public Affairs Office is to feature stories in this publication that represent units from all over our command's region of responsibility: the Pacific Theater. We are always seeking stories that would be of interest to all of our readers, including our Soldiers, Civilian employees, and our Families. Contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit all manuscripts. Story ideas as well as written articles and photos for consideration should be emailed to the following; avon.d.cornelius2.mil@mail.mil or liana.m.kim2.civ@mail.mil. Or give us a call at (808) 438-4095.

STAR NOTE



**MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES T. WALTON**

COMMANDING GENERAL
311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)
G6, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND

Aloha,

We are truly experiencing a fascinating time to be a Signaleer in the Pacific! The focus of this volume seven of our magazine is on our nation's rebalance of focus toward the Asia-Pacific region, and what this renewed commitment means to us as operators in the Pacific.

During my time here as 311th Signal Command (Theater) commanding general and G6, U.S. Army, Pacific, I have grown in my appreciation of the diverse complexity we face here on a daily basis.

The Asia-Pacific region extends from California to India and includes Alaska, Japan, Guam, and Korea to name a few. It encompasses over half the earth's surface and more than half of its population. The Pacific Ocean alone is the largest physical feature on planet earth.

In addition, the Asia-Pacific is extremely diverse: culturally, socially, and economically. Two of the three largest economies in the world; two of the most densely populated nations; the largest democracy; the largest Muslim nation; and the smallest republic are all in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region is a key player in the global economy with the busiest sea lanes in the world. It is also the most militarized. Our region is home to seven of the world's ten largest militaries and five nuclear powers.

This complex environment presents a wide and diverse group of challenges for Signaleers across the Pacific in achieving our overarching objectives: shaping regional intuitions and architecture, strengthening and modernizing alliances, and forging deeper partnerships with emerging powers.

Access to and freedom in the cyber domain will continue to present challenges and opportunities in the days ahead. We are leaning forward with the creation of Regional Cyber Centers to reinforce our position in the cyber domain.

The potential for conflict in Korea, one of our key allied nations in the Pacific, presents further challenges and opportunities for theater security cooperation. China and India continue to rise as both economic and military powers. We must ensure we integrate them and leverage their abilities while continuing to help our Pacific partners build capability.

We must meet these challenges with zeal and enthusiasm during a time that our military is asked to become more agile and efficient. Our dynamic teams of Signaleers have helped stabilize the region during the last century, and we will continue to keep our dynamic Asia-Pacific peaceful and secure for centuries to come.

Our commitment to making this rebalance for Asia-Pacific stability a reality depends on our continued presence and engagement in the Pacific. By sustaining key initiatives and building new alliances we can expand and deepen our commitment and resolve across this expansive theater.

I have full confidence that our excellent team of Soldiers and Civilians are up to the challenge.

It is most definitely an exciting time to be a cyber warrior in the Pacific! I hope you enjoy this Spring 2014 edition of "Premier Signal," our official publication of the 311th Signal Command, which shares your great stories from across the Pacific and around the globe.

Theater Voice!

Major General James T. Walton
Commanding General
311th Signal Command (Theater)
G6, U.S. Army, Pacific

CSM'S ANGLE

Greetings Team,

Within our All-Star family, the CSMs and SGMs of the 311th SC (T) have been providing "Back-to-the-Basics Articles" to the Hawaiian Weekly newspaper. The intent of the articles is to share best business practices with not only with members of the United States Army, but with our sister services, our civilian workforce, and the local residents of the great state of Hawaii.

The message is clear! As leaders we have the ultimate responsibility of coaching, teaching, and mentoring today's formations to ensure success as we transition towards the Army of 2020. I would like to personally thank CSM Wilson for his hard work, dedication, and his passion to lead today's Army into the future.

"Enable our Primary Trainers"

By CSM Donald A. Wilson,
307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion

Being at war for more than a decade has deteriorated not only our junior Noncommissioned Officers' ability to train but also leaders' ability to properly plan training. To meet our training needs during the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle, our Army increased its use of the internet as a means to train, disseminate and collect information. Leaders have largely failed to account for this additional training when publishing training schedules. This use of the internet combined with traditional training requirements has overwhelmed our junior NCOs who are the primary trainers of our Soldiers. We as leaders must afford our junior NCOs time and predictability that allows them to prepare and improve their Soldiers technical and tactical competencies.

Before the attacks on 9/11, our junior NCOs were very proficient trainers. They were proficient mainly because of leader involvement in every step of the model. Over the past 12 years, most of these Soldiers, which remained in the Army, became our Platoon Sergeants and First Sergeants. During this era of mobilizations and the ARFORGEN cycle, the number of training skills passed to new NCOs diminished. As the operational tempo grew, even less time was available to conduct productive training meetings and develop qualified trainers. Instead, training schedules were focused on the reset, train/ready and available cycles as units prepared for their next deployment. "Training to standard not to time" was replaced with "just get the prescribed ARFORGEN training done."

In addition to the Army mandatory training requirements from AR 350-1, Brigade and Battalion training guidance, NCOES, MOS Specific training, and Warrior Task Training, our primary trainers must also meet the increasing demands of the internet. Our primary trainers are modifying the 8-step training model. They are only identifying the task to be trained in step 1 (plan the training) and then skipping to step 6 (execute). I am holding our company command teams of the 307th ESB responsible for providing their primary trainers with protected and predictable training schedules that also incorporate online training. The first step in developing our trainers is to give them predictability. Brigades and Battalions must provide annual training guidance in a timely manner allowing Companies to develop their unit training plan. Platoon and Company training meetings are vital to the success of our Team Chiefs, Squad leaders, and Section Sergeants.

In summary, I would like to personally thank all the CSMs and SGMs of the 311th SC (T) for contributing their best business practices and taking responsibility of their formations, while simultaneously preparing today's formations for the future: The Army of 2020!

Travis L. Cherry

Theater Voice!

Travis L. Cherry
Command Sergeant Major
311th Signal Command (Theater)



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
TRAVIS L. CHERRY

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
311TH SIGNAL COMMAND (THEATER)





REBALANCING FOR ASIA-PACIFIC STABILITY -WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMANDING GENERAL
MAJ. GEN. JAMES T. WALTON, USARPAC G6

Q: What are the goals of our current administration's "pivot" or "rebalance" in U.S. relations, why is the Asia-Pacific region the priority, and what does it mean to the Army, and Signaleers in the Pacific?

A: Following more than a decade of war in Afghanistan and Iraq, our legislators have been trying to place more emphasis on Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia – parts of the world that will be of growing strategic and economic importance in the first half of the 21st century.


Asia-Pacific, the world's most populous and dynamic region, presents unique security challenges. Asia contains two of the world's three largest economies, the world's two most populous nations, the world's largest militaries, and some of its most stable democracies. It is a region crucial to American and global prosperity, and it is one in which tens of millions of people have moved from authoritarianism to democracy in the past generation.

The fundamental goals of this policy initiative are to broaden areas of cooperation with regional states and institutions; strengthen relations with American allies and partners; and develop regional norms and rules compatible with the international security, economic, and political order long supported by the United States. The rebalance also aims to expand bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation between the U.S. and the region.

The strategic rationale for this policy shift, to expand and intensify the already significant role of the U.S. in the Pacific region, does not mean our focus on other areas of the world will be forgotten. It is a matter of prioritizing, to build on a solid foundation of U.S.-Asia relations already in place. While remaining committed to ongoing campaigns abroad, this emphasis translates to the Army's commitment to balancing our armed forces with Asia-Pacific stability in mind. For Signaleers here in the Pacific, our mission is steadfast. We will remain postured to provide reliable, responsive and protected LandWarNet-Pacific communications.

Q: How do you anticipate the cyber landscape of the Pacific to look in the coming years?

A: Simmering conflicts in the area, coupled with an increasingly active cyber threat, will demand our unfaltering signal support. Emerging technologies will continue to place an ever-growing demand on the electromagnetic spectrum, an added challenge for units seeking to use new technologies abroad. We must continue working with key leaders of our partners and other nations across the Pacific to pave the way for short-term allocations in order to maximize force protection in each of our areas of responsibility. From help desk support to that tactical team at the edge of the grid, I have the utmost confidence that our dynamic team of professionals in the 311th SC(T), USARPAC G6 and our G6 teams throughout the Pacific will continue to adapt and improve our secure communications in order to mitigate the challenges here in the Pacific and to support the needs of our fellow War fighters.



Q: How will the rebalancing affect our priorities of work, training and mission execution for our Signal teams throughout the Pacific?

A: This “pivot” from Southwest Asia to the Pacific, increases the importance of building and maintaining good relations with our partner nations. The Army’s vision statement articulates formations as globally engaged and regionally responsive to prevent, shape and win. Here in the Pacific we have already demonstrated that regional alignments of our Army Forces -the Active Component, Ready Reserve and National Guard- provides defendable forces that are available for rotational purposes and able to develop enduring relationships and apply the cultural expertise with the regions in which we might serve. Key initiatives are being pursued to ensure the improved access of the geographic commands to the operational capacity of the Army Reserve, beginning with the standing up of engagement cells, to be located with and tailored to the needs of the Army Service Component Commands. U.S. Army, Pacific is scheduled to be among the first to embrace this new capability. Each cell will be manned full-time by a team of subject matter experts who are functionally aligned with the operational lines of the command, directed by an Army Reserve brigadier general on orders and an Active Guard Reserve Colonel as deputy director, to enable the efficient integration of Army Reserve capabilities into the full spectrum of operations, plans and exercises. Smaller engagement teams will be located at the corps and theater Army levels, including Eighth U.S. Army in South Korea.

Our area of operations across the vast expanse of the Pacific, with so many nations in our back yard, is the world’s most unique and challenging AOR. So there are numerous considerations inherent in USARPAC’s mission across the theater, and unique challenges involved in integrating with our partners. The vast array of opportunities to maintain relationships and create new partnerships through a robust schedule of Theater Security Cooperation Program exercises must be balanced with the fiscal challenges presented by our efforts to heal the budget. The geographically-dispersed nature of the Pacific makes us reliant on long haul communications to span the great distances involved, and the technological disparities between nations creates more challenges. A number of territorial disputes and regional flash points also make our AOR demanding in terms of communications support. We will continue to work with our partner nations to overcome these regionally-specific challenges in order to accomplish the mission and continue our legacy of delivering secure network capabilities to standard.

Q: Are there changes that have already been made that will affect our Soldiers, Civilians and Families?

A: Yes. USARPAC’s recent change from a three-star command to a four-star command will affect our signal posture within the Pacific. Our engagements with foreign nations will benefit from this increased senior leadership profile, allowing for greater interaction and partnership opportunities to build cyber capabilities and establish the foundations for future engagements. Now more than ever, maintaining our focus on network and cyber defense will allow for better leveraging of our signal assets.

As we continue to build strong relationships with our partners in the Pacific, we have met with great success and furthered key relationships in the region, exchanged information, tactics, techniques, and procedures between our communicators, culminating with a foray into cyber operations. A number of partnerships and exercises being planned with Malaysia, Australia, Mongolia, and the Philippines for the near future will provide more great opportunities to engage world leaders and pave the way for future exchanges and lasting friendships.



516th incorporates CIO/G-6 LandWarNet 2020 architecture into Pacific strategic plan



by Ms. Lin Clark Miller,
516th Signal Brigade

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii—516th Signal Brigade is implementing a strategic plan for the Pacific region in line with the Chief Information Officer/G-6 vision of the network being core to a smaller, more capable, better trained expeditionary force.

Incorporating the CIO/G-6 Land Warrior Network 2020 and Beyond Enterprise Architecture resulted in two major changes for the unit. First, the brigade made Pacific LWN 2020 its Line of Effort 2. Second, the unit established the PLWN 2020 Roadmap which depicts plan initiatives to prepare for full spectrum operation under a more unified global network.

The goal of the LWN 2020 is to achieve a single, secure, standards-based network that maximizes the use of shared resources by providing IT capabilities at the enterprise level, as the Army transforms from a deployed force to an expeditionary force.

To help achieve that goal, the PLWN 2020 Roadmap lays out the brigade's new strategic direction towards delivering reliable network services while standardizing and modernizing aged infrastructure to support a growing customer base for the best customer experience.

The end-state for PLWN 2020 will address a force-wide problem—allowing Soldiers to train as they will fight—through installation-as-docking-station capability. Units will be able to operate off of their tactical equipment, while in garrison, and then take their equipment with them and basically operate the same way down range.

Implementing IaaS benefits both the NEC and the tactical unit, providing a logical, mobile, digital footprint that will not require rebuilding after deployment. In addition, information assurance revalidation requirements will be limited and, in some cases, eliminated entirely.

Of particular concern to U.S. Army Pacific and the Pacific Command is the ability to provide service to approximately 40 thousand theater users with a projected growth of 20 thousand more by 2020, and an increase of 50 percent bandwidth utilization.

Considerations include how to resource to increase infrastructure capacity, implement a unified command in fiscal year 2015, assist Defense Information Systems Agency consolidation and transition of Joint Hawaii Information Transfer System to

Global Network Services, and retain a ready workforce.

The brigade's "PLWN 2020 Roadmap" lists four categories intended to address these concerns, including a service catalog, projects and acquisitions, infrastructure and personnel:

Under LWN 2020, unified capability technology will enable a more enterprise level service catalog, using an end-to-end approach for delivering voice, data and video, via Internet protocol (IP) to the user's desktop. This will allow the end-user access to services whether at work, home, TDY, or deployed.

The brigade's major projects and acquisitions bring new services and capacity to prepare the network for unified capabilities. DA directed, and part of NETCOM campaign plans, they include: unified capabilities, enterprise email, installation as a docking station, host-based security system, identity and access management, enterprise directory services and authentication, and joint information environment.

JIE will unify all combatant command and service component IT infrastructures in the Pacific region into a common architecture for use by all, collapsing and consolidating



physical infrastructures needed to support joint mission partners. Encompassing the required networks (transport), data centers, services, and network operations centers, JIE will increase operational effectiveness by enhancing visibility of regional networks and services due to NetOps consolidation, and provide USARPAC and PACOM commanders with a single place to get regional situational awareness.

Infrastructure development is the most critical step in implementing the PLWN 2020 strategy. Two critical points to be addressed are the transition of JHITS to GNS and the implementation of multi-protocol labeling switching, and joint regional security stacks.

Replacing JHITS and other services, and collapsing them into the single GNS will significantly reduce use of the utility that measures bandwidth usage and the speed of wired and wireless network connections, as well as the application for circuit services dedicated to sharing or exchanging

messages or other files on the network.

The regional security stacks are part of a larger Army network modernization effort that began with the purchase of multiprotocol label switching routers in 2012 and coordinated with the Defense Information Systems Agency. MPLS enables a high-performance telecommunications network that directs data from one network node to the next, based on short path labels, and allows traffic engineering. DISA will implement MPLS technology across DOD as part of its JIE secure networking framework.

As the LWN moves to a more global and unified network, the brigade must remain ready with trained personnel to operate and maintain its portion of the global information grid. Defense budget cuts, force reduction plans, and a delayed commitment of resources to the Pacific region highlight the critical point in the PLWN 2020 Roadmap personnel category: to

retain a trained and ready workforce.

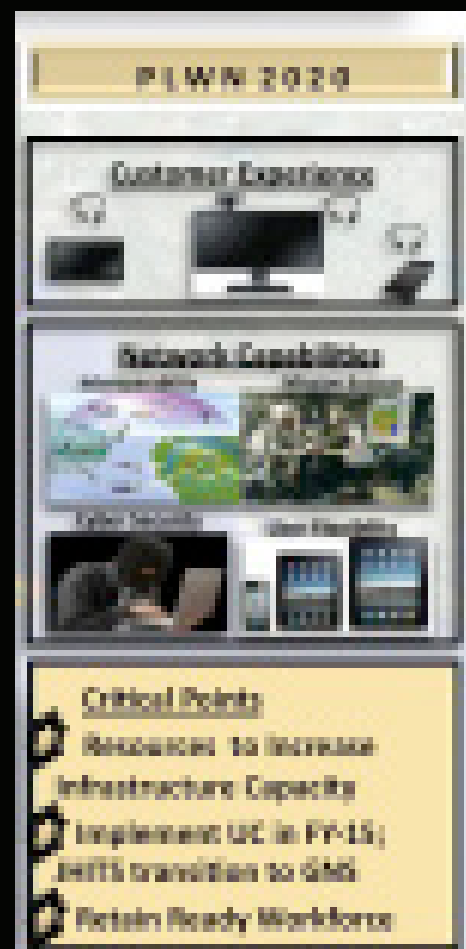
Department of Defense Directive 8570.1, "Information Assurance Training, Certification, and Workforce Management" provides guidance and procedures for training, certifying, and managing the workforce conducting IA functions, including all personnel responsible for the operation and maintenance of the PLWN.

While brigade personnel have received System Center Configuration Manager and Assured Compliance Assessment Solution training, 516th is currently leveraging opportunities provided by NETCOM and DISA to ensure proper certification of those administering, engineering and securing the network.



LEFT - Spc. Joshua Best (front) and Spc. Lucas Schoenborn, 333rd Signal Company, 78th Signal Battalion, configure a FIREBIRD (focused investigations of relativistic electron burst intensity, range, and dynamics) test for an upcoming SATCOM mission, at the SATCOM facility at Fort Buckner, Okinawa, during Operation Damayan in the Philippines, last November. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Joosten, 78th Signal Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative)

RIGHT - 2nd Lt. Daniel A. Herb, 1st Platoon Leader, Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade and Spc. Keith A. Hansen, a Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator and Maintainer, 1st Platoon discuss how strong of a signal the Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) is pulling at USAG Daegu, South Korea for the 2014 Key Resolve training exercise Feb. 20, 2014. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)





USARPAC G6

Joint Coalition Network Division

The Joint Coalition Network Division (JCND) under USARPAC G6 provides 24/7 technical expertise and guidance to the USARPAC four-star command staff. JCND consist of 45 Soldiers and Civilians supporting all USARPAC directorates with automation, audio/video, and video teleconferencing support to name a few. JCND is a collection of five sections working as one which contributes to the increase of support coverage, enhanced operation procedures, proper communications, and multiple complete all around subject

matter experts. Management of USARPAC directorates' Information Management Officers (IMO), System Administrators, Telephone Control Officer, Lifecycle program, and Capability Request management are also functions that fall within JCND responsibilities.

JCND provides excellent Signal support during USARPAC yearly exercises, real world events and deploys Soldiers around the Pacific Theatre to accomplish the mission. All Soldiers get their chance to rotate on a deployment to exercises like

Cobra Gold (Thailand), Key Resolve (Korea), Khaan Quest (Mongolia), Ulchi Freedom Guardian (Korea), Yama Sakura (Japan), and as part of the USARPAC Coordination Element in Korea. Each Soldier and Civilian can cover a wide variety of problems across multiple networks with multiple software and hardware options.

SSG Harris, Dale Customer Support

Customer support is a necessary part of the integrated JCND service desk. Customers with an issue can call our 24/7 service desk and receive support either remotely or on-site. The service desk receives requests to create accounts, troubleshoots issues with operating systems, transfers data between computers, process VPN requests, and assist with mission-related exercises. With trouble tickets being submitted via SharePoint service desk ticket system, phone calls, and emails, the service desk can track all issues within the Area of Operations. Updates or changes to any trouble tickets are sent by email to the user, IMO, and technician. The service desk will resolve all trouble





tickets received unless elevation to the NEC is needed for higher administrative rights to completely resolve. The ticket system ensures that customers are informed about their ticket status, provides a brief history of the ticket for fellow technicians, and keeps a running log of minor and major issues for senior leaders to stay current.

SGT Collins, Chad System Administrators

Our role, as System Administrators, is to assist all users within USARPAC on Fort Shafter with any technical issues that interrupt their mission. Training exercises, which are held in many locations throughout the Pacific Theater, are highly important for USARPAC mission readiness. In preparation for these exercises, JCND ensures that all participants have domain accounts created for all required networks. In addition to account processing, it is our responsibility to provide hard drives with the correct classification, operating system, and necessary security updates. During these training exercises, we provide support to the participants



by monitoring and maintaining all systems and networks, in addition to our daily duties as the JCND Service Desk.

Mr. Castro, Richard GCCS

The mission of the Global Command and Control System (GCCS) is to provide Command and Control systems and services to the Joint and Army War Fighter in support of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Commander, US Pacific Command (PACOM); and Commander, US Army Pacific. The GCCS branch serves as the primary Global Command and Control System - Joint (GCCS-J) PACOM.JOPES database site as well as a DISA Secret Internet Protocol Network (SIPR) router node site. GCCS provides users in Hawaii, Alaska, and Japan with C2 systems applications support, tactical data handling, database administration, and access permissions on a 24/7 basis.

Mr. Star, Scott SharePoint

The SharePoint Section administers and maintains the USARPAC theater SharePoint portals on NIPRNET, SIPRNET, CENTRIXS-Korea, CENTRIXS-Japan and exercise portals. This section provides SharePoint Server and Application Administration; provides guidance support for governance; enforce and support Knowledge Management governance; and development support for SharePoint solutions. With a customer of more than 30,000 users the SharePoint section provides 24/7 support with On-Call after hour support via JCND Service Desk. The SharePoint section also provides SharePoint support for exercises as needed.



Left: Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, U.S. Army, Pacific Commander, visits the USARPAC coordination element in Korea and presents Sgt. Chad Collins with a coin and a USARPAC ballcap for his excellent work. **Top:** Spc. John Summers from U.S. Army, Pacific G6, installs a category 6 cable line under the floor panel to connect a client's computer to the network. **Bottom:** Staff Sgt. Jonathan Miles and Sgt. Caleb Johnson from U.S. Army, Pacific G6 conducts a fiber line continuity check in support of USARPAC Headquarters Palm Circle Network.



333RD PROVIDES CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT FOR SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN RELIEF OPERATION



by 2nd Lt. Allison O'Kelly,
333rd Signal Company

The USS George Washington arrives in the Philippines to begin assessing damage and provide logistical and emergency support for Operation Damayan, last November, following Super Typhoon Haiyan. 333rd Signal Company, 78th Signal Battalion, played a vital role as the center of gravity for providing communications capability to various units and Navy vessels. Located on the left are the domes and antennas which display the "distant end" of one of the 333rd's missions. (Photo courtesy of Philippine News)

FORT BUCKNER, Japan—The 333rd Signal Company satellite communications operators and maintainers played a critical role in the success of the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation set up in the Republic of the Philippines, following Super Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda which killed over 6,000 residents, and devastated the island nation, last November.

From its base, here, the 78th Signal Battalion provided communications capabilities for Operation Damayan, Tagalog for "solidarity," and enabled continuous 24/7 delivery of strategic communications reach-back to service units operating as part of Joint Task Force 505.

On November 18, 2013, JTF-505 was activated to provide assistance and support to the Philippine government and armed forces during Operation Damayan. The task force was comprised of U.S. Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force personnel. All forces involved in JTF-505 had important jobs, but the 333rd played a vital role as the center of gravity for providing communications capability to the units involved in the operation.

At the peak of operation, the 333rd's Department of Defense Standardized Tactical Entry Point/Teleport Gateway, supported over 27 missions for the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force personnel, as well as elements providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The Sig. Co. Facility Control Office played a significant role in the support of the operation. The FCO is the primary monitoring agent servicing over 850 circuits and trunks and is monitored 24-7 in the continuous operation of the Joint War-Fighter Inter-base Telecommunications Network.

The unit provided terrestrial support from Okinawa, through the JWITN, ensuring communication capabilities to the JTF-505 Joint Operations Center, at Camp Courtney. The FCO monitored networks and reported for the 27 SATCOM missions as well as enforced a period of non-disruption requirements to ensure that no authorized service interruptions interfered with the relief efforts.

"Operation Damayan provided an unexpected surge in mission

requirements for the 333rd Signal Company that tested the unit's ability to respond and adapt and respond," said Cpt. April Campise, Commander of 333rd Sig. Co. "In a matter of days our mission load increased dramatically. Over 20 missions were pulled into our facility at one time, and the Soldiers responded as they had been trained to – with the utmost professionalism and technical competency."

SATCOM Operator Spc. Lucas Schoenborn added, "It was not unusual to see a technician [willingly] stay after their shift to provide assistance with troubleshooting."

In addition to the steady state mission load, support to Operation Damayan presented an operational surge where mission totals exceeded historic records at the facility.

Supporting JTF-505 allowed the 333rd to test operational readiness, adaptability of personnel, and their ability to respond to evolving mission requirements. Operators and maintainers were required to quickly adapt and respond to the increased and unexpected mission load. Soldiers responded to the increased requirements with practiced resilience and composure.

"The quality of our training program has played a significant role in our ability to meet operational requirements, and we are constantly working to improve the individual certification of every Soldier

assigned," Campise said.

According to Sgt. John Magill, 333rd Sig. Co. Satellite Communication Systems Operator-Maintainer, the operation also provided a teambuilding experience where personnel pulled together to accomplish mission success.

"Technicians really came together during Operation Damayan," Magill said. "As the mission load continued to increase, we balanced each other's strengths and weaknesses, and worked together to ensure the success of the mission and of our unit."



333rd Signal Company members (from left) Spc. James Wellman, Spc. Jeffery Kaufman and Spc. Amanda McKinnon, monitor the Joint War-Fighter Inter-base Telecommunications Network to gather information about a circuit outage, at the Fort Buckner Tech Control Facility, during Operation Damayan, conducted last November, after Super Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Republic of the Philippines. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Jason Joosten, 78th Signal Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative)



304th Signal Support for Warpath Theater Signal Exercise



*Spc. Gregory T. Summers,
304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion*

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade prepare to finish the assembly of the Light Weight High Gain X-Band Antenna (LHGXA) to provide communications support for the Signal Theater Exercise Dec. 1 at USAG Yongsan. The LHGXA and Soldiers from the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion provide reliable, user-friendly communication for deployed units. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)

USAG YONGSAN, South Korea – The 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion came to Yongsan from Camp Humphreys to provide signal support for the Signal Theater Exercise Dec. 1. “We provide tactical data and communications,” said 2nd Lt. Daniel A. Herb, Platoon Leader, Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade. “Our job is to take our equipment, and be ready to move and set-up anywhere.”

In support of 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion’s mission to provide communications for the exercise, 1st Platoon was in charge of setting up the rugged and powerful Light Weight High Gain X-Band Antenna (LHGXA). The LHGXA is a large and highly mobile tactical antenna with a 16-foot-diameter to send and receive data.

Deployed and operated by military personnel worldwide, the LHGXA was built to provide field units reliable, user-friendly communications. The dish is mounted on a towable trailer and allows for rapid deployments.

Staff Sgt. Lawrence R. Brew, Charlie Company’s Networks Operations Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, said, “While this type of dish is considered older technology, it is still a firm staple to Army communications.”

Brew said the LHGXA’s concept and design is not state of the art, but it allows units to communicate and receive signals from one horizon to another. “Once it is set-up, we can communicate globally in a matter of seconds,” said Brew. Soldiers like those from the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion are responsible for operating and maintaining communications equipment like the LHGXA, increase the size of the battlefield by increasing the range of communications.

The 1st Signal Brigade enables joint and combined command, control, communications, computers, and information management operations throughout Korea to support United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, and Eighth Army’s ability to lead, direct and maneuver available forces during armistice, crisis, or war.

BELOW – Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade work together to set up the Light Weight High Gain X-Band Antenna (LHGXA) to provide communications support for the Signal Theater Exercise Dec. 1 at USAG Yongsan. After travelling from USAG Humphreys in the morning, the Soldiers had the 16-foot dish assembled and operating just after lunch time. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)





By Spc. Gregory T. Summers,
1st Signal Brigade

USAG Humphreys, South Korea – Leaders from the office of the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6, 311th Signal Command (Theater), Army Network Enterprise Technology Command and 1st Signal Brigade met to see the overall construction efforts underway to make USAG Humphreys the main hub for U.S. forces before attending the Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) Summit the following day.

The group met on Nov. 25, a cold, windy, rainy day at the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion's conference room to discuss key upcoming target dates for C4I operations in Korea. They also were briefed on the progress being made with facilities and the expansion area, as well as problems that engineers have faced during the construction prior to starting a site tour at USAG Humphreys.

When the expansion and relocation programs at USAG Humphreys are complete, Humphreys will become the third largest U.S. Army Base in real estate and the sixth largest in population. That expansion will

include more than 500 new facilities such as family housing, schools, recreation facilities, a new Exchange and commissary, motor pools and aviation hangars.

Lt. Col. Heriberto Galarza, C4I Plans and Integration Officer for 1st Signal Brigade, said the 1st Signal Brigade and Republic of Korea Army serve as C4I's joint working group for United States Forces Korea's transformation and relocation program.

Galarza explained, "C4I is basically in charge of 'connecting' everything; telephone, internet and cable television. We are currently working on finishing the outer fiber rings of our communication lines." While efforts at USAG Humphreys began in 2009, it wasn't until 2011 that C4I operations could begin for this massive undertaking.

One of the difficulties for the engineers has been building on ground that was once Korean, rice patty farms. The dirt must be built up into layers to provide firm support for all of the new facilities it will hold. This has forced engineers who routinely encounter sink holes to dig and set deeper pylons than normal.

SIGNAL LEADERS ASSESS PROGRESS AT HUMPHREYS

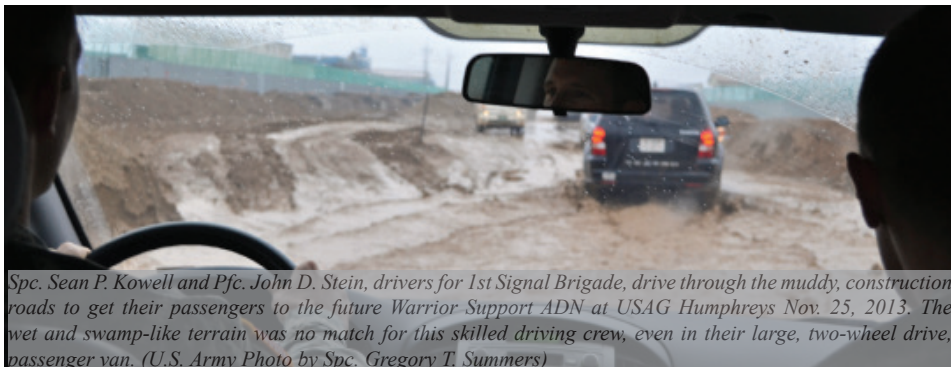
"Not everything has gone according to plan, but we are positive it is possible to meet target dates despite the challenges we face," said Galarza.

The group toured one of the newly completed future family housing apartment towers and were impressed by the spacious living accommodations. The balcony from the apartment provided a bird's eye view to see the whole construction area.

When trying to move out from the ADN construction site the vehicles struggled as the rain turned the dirt roads into a muddy swamp. The experience helped the group to gain a better perspective of ground issues the construction teams faced on a daily basis.

"I think the feedback I have from the generals is good. They are very pleased with the progress and the engineering efforts being made and are continuing to help us find ways to improve to meet our deadlines," said Galarza.

The following day, they attended the second annual C4I Summit meeting at Osan Air Base. The meeting provided the opportunity to show the ongoing efforts to improve C4I interoperability between U.S. and ROK forces. The summit focused on air interoperability and the synergistic effects of combined C4I for the warfighter.



Spc. Sean P. Kowell and Pfc. John D. Stein, drivers for 1st Signal Brigade, drive through the muddy, construction roads to get their passengers to the future Warrior Support ADN at USAG Humphreys Nov. 25, 2013. The wet and swamp-like terrain was no match for this skilled driving crew, even in their large, two-wheel drive, passenger van. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)

Top: The command teams from the 1st Signal Brigade, 311th Signal Command and United States Army Network Enterprise Command look at information of the future Warrior Support ADN at USAG Humphreys Nov. 25, 2013. The command group wanted to get a first-hand view of the progress being made. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)



304TH ESB PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR Eighth Army during KEY RESOLVE 2014



By Spc. Gregory T. Summers,
1st Signal Brigade

USAG DAEGU, South Korea - Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Charley Company, 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade traveled from Camp Humphreys to Camp Walker last week to provide signal support for Eighth Army during the 2014 Key Resolve training exercise. They brought satellite dishes and communications equipment for the exercise to ensure that personnel at Camp Walker can stay connected to the fight and maintain a "Fight Tonight" posture.

Capt. Micheal A. Chezum, Charley Company Commander said 1st Platoon has been tasked to provide the warfighter networks to almost 700 Soldiers and civilians at Camp Walker for the exercise. "This includes video teleconferences and Command Post of the Future updates," said Chezum.

2nd Lt. Daniel A. Herb, 1st Platoon's Platoon Leader, said his Soldiers provide dependable voice communication services with some data bandwidth.

The platoon brought four tactical pieces of signal equipment that provide the safest and most reliable communication capabilities. Each piece works together to allow the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion to provide its Eighth Army counterpart with solid and mission ready communications.

First, the Secure, Mobile, Anti-Jam, Reliable, Tactical - Terminal provides its tactical users with safe and survivable satellite

communications. The SMART-T makes it possible for Soldiers and their command to expand the range of their communications on the battlefield and it cannot be jammed, detected or intercepted by the enemy.

Herb said this SMART-T is on a point-to-point shot with another at Yongsan to allow communication across South Korea and has always been a reliable piece of equipment.

"For this particular mission, our SMART-T is hooked up to our Single Shelter Switch, our Satellite Transportable Terminal, and our Phoenix," said Herb.

The SSS is much smaller in size and is designed and intended for rapid deployment with the demanding "First In" capabilities.

A staple for network expansions, the SSS is enhanced to provide joint and coalition interoperability acting as a filter for the information the SMART-T is receiving.

Additionally, the STT was designed and intended for challenging conditions and demanding operations of the

warfighter. It is a combat-proven, mobile, ground terminal to establish secure voice, video and data communications almost globally.

Finally, the Super High Frequency Phoenix provides multi-band capabilities in ranges that work with commercial and military SHF satellites for expeditionary signal battalions.

A key component in communications for the warfighter, the Phoenix is a tactical satellite that allows transmission of high bandwidth voice, video and data.

Soldiers from the 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion with their tactical, combat-ready communications equipment, increase the size of the battlefield by increasing the range of communications between command teams and their warfighters.

The 304th Expeditionary Signal Battalion's Secure, Mobile, Anti-Jam, Reliable, Tactical - Terminal (SMART-T) (right) and Satellite Transportable Terminal (STT) (left) set-up and fully operational at USAG Daegu, South Korea for the 2014 Key Resolve training exercise Feb. 20, 2014. Soldiers from the 304th ESB, 1st Signal Brigade are providing communications support for almost 700 personnel for the exercise. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)





307th overcomes challenge to deliver comms for Kwajalein missile defense



1st Lt. Ryan McKamie and Sgt. 1st Class Nelson Mabee, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion



HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, Hawaii

– Nearly three months after rolling tens of thousands of pounds of tactical communications equipment off an Air Force C-17, and onto the tarmac of a humid, postage stamp of an atoll in the northern Pacific, a small group of Soldiers assigned to 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion concluded their mission.

Despite environmental and equipment challenges, assets from Bravo and Charlie Companies successfully delivered communications support to a terminal high altitude area defense battery for A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment during Flight Test Operational-01, a complex ballistic missile defense flight test, conducted last September, on Meck island, Kwajalein Atoll, in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Initially a straightforward operation, preparations for the Marshall Islands mission were complicated days prior to departure by the scrapping of the transmission equipment set, used in 2012 at Flight Test Integrated-01. The set was replaced with a package offering no transmission redundancy which forced last minute personnel and equipment changes and a hasty prep and pack-out of the Phoenix (AN/TSC-156) tactical super high frequency satellite terminal, the battalion FTO-01 team's method of transmission.

In the first days of July, the team and

its equipment arrived on Kwajalein island, and then moved by ferry to the vastly smaller island of Meck, to begin the work of establishing the tactical network infrastructure required for 2nd ADA Regiment's missile defense test.

No sooner had the Soldiers begun swinging hammers and positioning equipment, than the humid, salty ocean air battled against them, equally determined to quickly corrode components of the Phoenix terminal responsible for producing a signal strong enough to transmit to the satellite. Not to be defeated, once replacement components were sourced, the team pushed more than 24-hours straight to meet their suspense for achieving full operational capability ahead of A Battery's scheduled communications exercise.

Despite the challenges thrown at members of B Co. and C Co., the team overcame and conquered each, refusing to be bested by equipment problems or the tropical environment.

"What really impressed me about the Soldiers participating in this mission was their absolute dedication to exceeding whatever standard or expectation was put in front of them," said Bravo Company's 1st Lt. Ryan McKamie, the mission Officer in Charge.

"They went without sleep; they worked late at night, out in the rain; and at points where average Soldiers might have given up, they persevered and got creative to get the network up and keep it up," McKamie added, praising the team.

Once comms were up, the Soldiers' focus turned to equipment maintenance and monitoring to enable and ensure the high-level of service availability necessary for A Battery to carry out its mission and the Missile Defense Agency to evaluate the effectiveness of all participating ballistic missile defense assets.

After completing the high visibility mission that resulted in a successfully



executed test of regional ballistic missile defense assets' ability to intercept medium-range targets, the Soldiers returned to their battalion, here, confident that each contributed to another demonstration of the battalion's capacity to quickly plan, prepare, and deploy Soldiers and equipment to austere Pacific environments in order to deliver secure and highly available mission essential communications.

According to Bravo Company Commander Captain Timothy Mussack, the role played by the unit proved an invaluable experience for his Soldiers to display their expertise and ingenuity in providing crucial communications capability in support of the mission.

"Supporting FTO-01 was a great opportunity for Bravo Company and the team of Soldiers who deployed from Charlie Company to ensure reliable tactical communications was provided to the Warfighter," he said.

"Even though there was a lot of adversity before and during the execution of this objective, the Soldiers on the ground found a way to accomplish the mission," said Mussack, adding, "I am truly proud of all the Soldiers who helped make this national level exercise a success."

TOP LEFT - 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion Satellite Communication Systems Operator Maintainers Spc. Michael Slocum (top), of B Company, and (from left) Spc. Joel Resler and Spc. Joseph Pugh, of C Company, work together to diagnose a power transmission problem on the Phoenix (AN/TSC-156) tactical super high frequency satellite terminal. **TOP RIGHT** - Spc. Frank Caldero, of B Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, conducts maintenance after climbing inside the shelter of the Phoenix (AN/TSC-156) tactical super high frequency satellite terminal, during Flight Test Operational-01, a complex ballistic missile defense flight test, conducted by A Battery, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment, and supported by a 307th ESB team on Kwajalein Atoll, last summer. (Photos by Sgt. Matthew Mackey)



Focus on Behavior To Reduce Accidents



*Mr. Daniel Clark,
311th Signal Command (Theater)*

Enhancing our safety culture is about people – our attitudes, behaviors and thoughts – and the changing dynamics of today's Signal mission.

An enhanced Safety Culture is evident where:

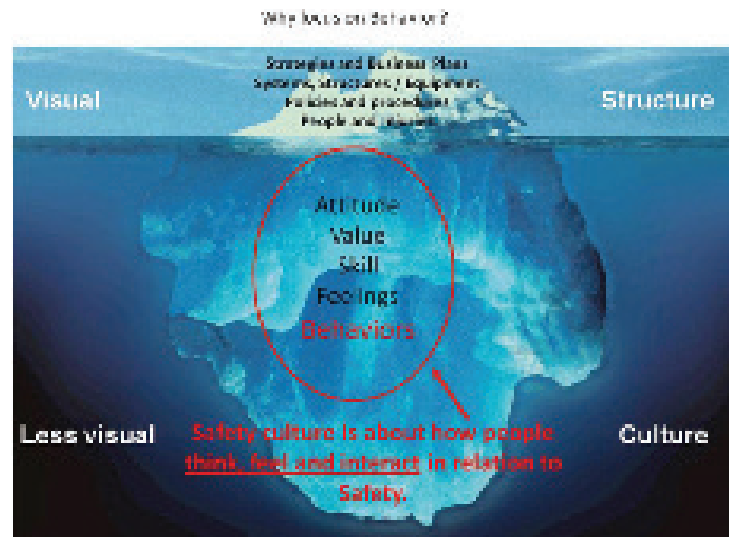
- Safety is treated seriously by the management and all employees.
- All employees are trained and encouraged to think and work safely at all times.
- A system is in place to report safety concerns with timely feedback.
- All believe that safety ensures successful mission accomplishment.
- Safety is an integral part of the way the unit operates.

There are two primary causes of incidents; unsafe conditions and unsafe acts. An example of an unsafe condition where we are vulnerable to an accident could be simply driving a car. We are surrounded by hazards that could cause harm, i.e., texting, navigating, pedestrians, traffic, etc. but most of the time we safety negotiate these hazards and arrive at our destination safely.

The majority of our injuries and accidents are caused by unsafe acts and behaviors not unsafe conditions or equipment. Unsafe acts include, but are not limited to, taking short cuts, rushing, rule violations, procedure deviations, attitude issues, or judgment issues. How we behave (our actions) may not be related to our skill level. In other words, some of our most skilled employees might actually display some of the most dangerous behaviors.

All injuries have a ripple effect and touch each one of us. Safe behavior and safe work place conditions enhance the safety culture of any unit. Observing and reporting hazards will drive down incidents. Mere discussions about safety will drive down incidents. Talking with people to acknowledge safe acts and correct unsafe acts encourages employees to follow

safe work practices. Finally, formally addressing safety issues through the chain-of-command will drive down incidents of injuries even further.



At its base, as a 311th Signal Command (Theater) representative, you have the authority without fear of reprimand or retaliation, to immediately stop any work activity that presents a danger to you, your co-workers, contractors or the public. It is your responsibility to get involved by questioning and rectifying any situation that is identified as not in compliance with our safety policies. You must correct and/or report any conditions or activities that involve violation of established safety policies. If you don't feel the issue is addressed adequately, you have the responsibility to raise the issue higher.

311th Signal Command (Theater) is working toward making zero incidents a choice rather than a goal; where each of us helps others conform to the standard, watches out for each other (battle buddy), acknowledges and shares accident prevention methods and lessons learned, promotes transparency, and promotes organizational pride. "I follow rules because I want to, not because I have to."



'Enlightened Dragon' allows signal battalion to do more with less



by Capt. Kurt E. Van Slooten,
1st Signal Brigade

In preparation for taking the Signal Plus certification, Soldiers from 36th Signal Battalion work together in the Enlightened Dragon class to understand some of the more complicated concepts of Signal Plus. The Enlightened Dragon class is held quarterly by the 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, on Camp Henry, Daegu, to prepare their Soldiers for taking the Signal Plus certification test.

USAG DAEGU, South Korea - Soldiers in a Signal Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) that requires higher network permissions must pass the Security Plus exam and be certified in order for them to be fully functional in their daily jobs.

Typically, a mobile training team, or MTT, comes to the different areas in Korea to provide training for the Soldiers, but as the budget has tightened, the MTTs have been sent less often, and demand for seats in their classes has increased greatly.

To combat this challenge, in Area IV, the Network Enterprise Technology Command's 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, has taken it upon themselves to provide the specialized training traditionally provided by the MTTs to assist their Soldiers to become certified without having to wait for the MTT. They call their class "Enlightened Dragon."

The program has been going on for about three and a half years, and started out teaching netplus certification, according to Ronald Coleman, the regional director of Network Enterprise Center South. He said that he saw the need to provide the Soldiers in the 36th Signal Battalion additional training that wasn't being provided at the time to better enable them to better work on the Army communications network. Since then the program has moved on to teaching Security Plus to give the Soldiers an IT level II certification.

"We typically run an 87 to 90 percent pass rate for first-time exams," said Coleman. "It's an intensive two weeks, and sometimes that weekend in-between they're working too."

Coleman said the only reason the program is successful is because he got the commander's buy-in to hedge the Soldiers off from all but Physical Readiness Training, first thing in the morning, and allow them to focus solely on the Security Plus training.

The majority of the class was made up of relatively new

Soldiers, however most professed to have had an affinity or prior experience working with computers prior to becoming a Soldier.

"I did this as a civilian too," said Pfc. Timothy M. Belanger, who now works at the help desk at the 293rd Signal Company.

Belanger said that the 'Enlightened Dragon' class opened his eyes to how Security Plus ties in to the job he does every day. He said that the class goes into depth in Security Plus that he didn't receive at Army Advanced Individual Training.

"This class has been really helpful to the students," said Belanger. "When we first got here, we had people getting 200 to 300 scores on the exam. Now they are getting 700s to 800s in one week."

Another student, Pfc. Konor J. Robinson, was told after he took the ASVAB that he could basically do whatever he wanted, and Information Technology Specialist was the only thing he wanted to do. However he has been frustrated since he got to his unit, the 14th Signal Detachment, because he can't do his job without the certification.

Robinson said he is definitely learning a lot during the class and appreciates the time they have to really focus on learning the Security Plus lessons.

Command Sgt. Maj. Myron Geter, 36th Signal Battalion Command Sgt. Maj., explained that Department of the Army Civilians from the battalion who have Security Plus certifications have volunteered to teach the portions of the class they are most familiar with.

"The program consists of civilians and the Army working as one team, which only makes the battalion and the brigade more effective," said Geter.

When asked about expanding the program, Coleman said that they will hold their first 'Enlightened Dragon' course at Camp Humphreys coming up in January. This will kick-off the same 'Enlightened Dragon' program in Area III to meet the needs of the Dragon Battalion Soldiers there as well.



Signal battalion starts pilot program for FAST classes



by Capt. Kurt E. Van Slooten,
1st Signal Brigade

USAG DAEGU, South Korea - As the Army continues to drawdown the force, over-strength fields will begin to ask Soldiers to reclassify to a new job or face the hard choice of having to get out of the Army. At the 36th Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, Soldiers are helping Soldiers to make sure they have the best opportunity to stay in the Army and remain relevant.

These Soldiers are helping by volunteering as teacher for the battalion's pilot program, the Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST) class. The FAST class is a 4-week program designed to help enlisted Soldiers improve their reading, math and vocabulary skills. After completing the class, they can re-take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) and raise their line scores, specifically their General Technical (GT) and Skilled Technical (ST) scores in order to qualify for special programs, special Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) or entry into officer programs.

Traditionally, this class is offered at the education center on post, but due to budgetary constraints the classes are not currently offered in Korea.

Because of her passion to help Soldiers, Staff Sgt. Monica Castillo, the 36th Signal Battalion Career Counselor, decided to put together a pilot FAST class program for her battalion after learning that it wasn't offered in Korea. She used ASVAB test preparation materials and other reference materials from the education center.

"I felt obligated to help some of the Soldiers in our battalion raise their aptitude scores, due to the fact that

more than 60 percent of our MOS's are over-strength," said Castillo. She has said many times that Soldiers just entering the service don't understand the importance of scoring as high as possible on the ASVAB. Those scores have a big determining factor on



Staff Sgt. David Y. Ko, studies his teaching materials, while students in the Functional Academic Skills Training class take a timed math quiz to prepare them for re-taking the math section of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery under time constraints, in the 36th Signal Battalion conference room on Camp Walker, South Korea.

whether you can commission as an officer or what type of enlisted specialty you can qualify for.

Castillo explains, "the requirements for the scores for many MOS's were reduced during the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, and Soldiers were allowed to join the Army with waivers to serve in their enlisted specialty. Now the problem is that those Soldiers are now serving in over-strength MOS's with limited choices for reclassification."

What makes the FAST pilot

program really different from the ones at the education centers is that it is all volunteer, Soldier-led and after-hours. Both the instructors and the students are giving up their free time from 4 - 8 p.m., Monday through Friday for 4-weeks.

"I love it," said Pfc. Debante Powell, a logistics specialist with 36th Signal Battalion, "the way they break it down in the math. The instructors show us creative ways to find the answer so it won't take as long, and we won't run out of time on the test." He is grateful for the opportunity because he hopes to become a logistics warrant officer.

Staff Sgt. David Y. Ko, 36th Signal Battalion information management officer and one of the FAST math instructors, said "When [Staff Sgt. Castillo] explained what the purpose of it was...I decided it was a good cause. Just being in the Army and getting to instruct, mentor and teach Soldiers the stuff you know, I find enjoyable."

The other math instructor, Sgt. Arie W. Freeman, 36th Signal Battalion personnel Non-Commissioned Officer-in-charge, said "I feel like helping other people goes along with the Army values. It isn't about just bettering myself, if I see my battle buddy needs help with something I understand, then I'm going to lean to the side and try to help them out."

The current FAST class is helping 12 Soldiers in the 36th Signal Battalion and Castillo is already planning the for next class.



311th Crowns

Civilian of the Year



by Maj. Avon Cornelius,
311th Signal Command (Theater)

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii - The 311th Signal Command (Theater) Civilian of the Year for 2013 was announced during a ceremony here, February 28.

Charles Saunders, Information Technology Program Manager in G-35 (Plans and Engineering), was selected as the top government civilian for 311th SC(T). Saunders was one of the four quarterly winners from fiscal year 2013 who were considered for the top spot. The competition was fierce as each civilian of the quarter winner held an array of accolades ranging from implementing new programs and developing command initiatives.

Known as "The Theater Voice," 311th SC(T) is headquartered at Fort Shafter. The team of Soldiers and civilians provide trained and ready forces in order to plan, build, operate, maintain, and defend the Army and Joint networks throughout the Pacific Theater in order to enable mission command for joint warfighters. The command comprises of more than 3,500 Soldiers and civilians supporting the Army.

The quarterly awardees from fiscal year 2013 were:

1st Quarter: De Los Santos, Jeanne, Information Technology Project Manager

2nd Quarter: Charles Saunders, Information Technology Program Manager

3rd Quarter: Dave Rogers, Senior Electronics Engineer

4th Quarter: Edward Covell, Project Manager

Speaking about the value of the Army's military and civilian workforce, Anna Vitkauskas, the 311th SC(T) Senior Technical Advisor said, "Our civilian workforce is comprised of dedicated professionals who always put the mission first."

The 311th Chief of Staff, Col. Kimberly Rapacz, spoke about all the turmoil the civilian workforce had to endure in 2013, including a furlough, hiring freeze and government shutdown. She pointed out how the civilian workforce at the 311th pulled together to make a difference.

"These civilians of the quarter are a great example of our entire civilian workforce," Rapacz said.

Saunders concluded the ceremony with thanks to his family, his team members and the chain of command.

"I could not succeed without the support of my family and my team here at the 311th," said Saunders. "Thank you all for your support."

RIGHT - Soldiers and Civilians of the 311th Signal Command (Theater) pose for a group photo after receiving awards. (U.S. Army Photo by Maj. Avon Cornelius, 311th Signal Command Public Affairs Office)



RIGHT - Civilian of the Year, Charles Saunders, poses for a photo alongside the 311th's Chief of Staff, Col. Kimberly Rapacz and Senior Tech Advisor, Anna Vitkauskas, after being announced the civilian of the year within the 311th Signal Command. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Avon Cornelius, 311th Signal Command Public Affairs Office)





Signal Companies teach new Soldiers technical facility inspection



by Cpl. Oh Jong-soo,
1st Signal Brigade

CAMP RED CLOUD, South Korea - Working together, 30 Soldiers from 362nd and 552nd Signal Companies, 41st Signal Battalion, 1st Signal Brigade, conducted tech facility inspection training as part of the Battalion's week-long, post-Key Resolve White Week Training program on Mar. 13, in Uijeongbu, South Korea.

During the tech facility inspection training, Soldiers learned to prepare for formal inspections they would receive during a Staff Assistance Visit; teaching and training personnel on goals and standards of the Army inspection policy for tech control units.

Spc. Justin Cyr, Tech Control Team Chief, 362nd Signal Company explained that their leaders want to ensure that personnel from both companies can properly operate and maintain the tech facilities.

"Tech control in the Army is very much like the Federal Communications Commission that regulates interstate and international communications through radio, television and satellite," said Cyr. "As such, it is an important function and Soldiers working with it must really know their job, make sure that the facilities are working at certain standards and that operating procedures adhere to Defense

Information Systems Agency Circular 310-70-1."

Soldiers were divided into two groups. The first group performed inspection on the 552nd Signal Company's tech facility located in a bunker at Camp Red Cloud, while the second group went over power point instructions on power outages.

Staff Sgt. James Walker, Camp Tango NCOIC led the first group and ran through various standard procedures to check whether 552nd Signal Company Soldiers working with tech controls on a daily basis are familiar with managing the facility.

"We are conducting an equipment to equipment

check and evaluating how proficient Soldiers are with their job," said Walker. "This is a good opportunity to perform knowledge sharing with young Soldiers as well as to reassess how we are doing as a team across signal companies, and hopefully make training program better in the future."

Staff Sgt. Philip Durham, 2nd Platoon Sergeant, and Sgt. Louis Schwab, Network Operation Center NCOIC, at 552nd Sig Co. led the second group through an interactive session designed to help Soldiers better understand about the procedures of DISA reporting and build consensus through case studies on what actions should be taken when complicated circumstances arose from outages.

During the presentation Schwab shared his past experience of an outage event when he was working in Washington DC, giving an indication of how important the job is.

"During an outage personnel from the White House called and accused me of being the one responsible for mismanaging the incident," recalled Schwab. "However, because I followed all standard procedures, I did what I was supposed to do and reported to DISA (Defense Information Systems Agency), Regional Network Operations and Security Center and my first line supervisor. By knowing and doing the right thing, they later found out that I had no accountability."

Spc. Matthew Moore, Tech Control Specialist, 552nd Sig. Co, who participated in the training expressed on behalf of all the participants how they benefitted from the training.

"Although we work with this on a daily basis, there could possibly be some inconsistencies dealing with a variety of problems as they arise," said Moore. "This training helped us to conduct the inspection and identify whether problems exist, whether everything is running correctly and makes us better able to self-check prior to DISA inspector evaluation."



Soldiers of the 552nd Signal Company learn how to conduct technical facility inspections which involve regulating interstate and international communications through radio, television, and satellite. (U.S. Army Photo by 1st Signal Brigade Public Affairs)

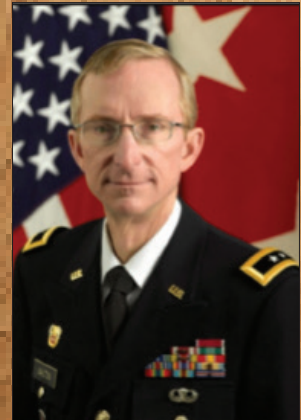
TRANSITION



LTG
SUSAN
LAWRENCE
US ARMY CIO G6



BG
PETER
GALLAGHER
NETCOM



MG
JAMES T.
WALTON
311TH SIGNAL
COMMAND

OUTGOING



CSM
KEVIN E.
MCCRORY
US ARMY CIO G6



CSM
EARL B.
ALLEN
NETCOM



CSM
TRAVIS L.
CHERRY
311TH SIGNAL
COMMAND

ITIONS



LTG
ROBERT S.
FERRELL
US ARMY CIO G6



BG
JOHN B.
MORRISON
NETCOM



MG
LAWRENCE
W. BROCK
311TH SIGNAL
COMMAND

INCOMING



CSM
EARL B.
ALLEN
US ARMY CIO G6



CSM
STEPHFON
WATSON
NETCOM



CSM
ALLEN
BRASWELL
311TH SIGNAL
COMMAND



78th NCO plays pivotal support roles in super typhoon Haiyan relief effort



1st Lt. Ann M. Prugger, 78th Signal Battalion & Lin Clark Miller, 516th Sig Bde

CAMP NAVARRO, Republic of the Philippines – When Sgt. 1st Class Fa`amasino Galoia was assigned to the Joint Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTF-P), to assist with the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and recovery effort following Super Typhoon Haiyan, nothing could have prepared him for what he was about to see.

“It was like someone had dropped an atomic bomb...the worst [condition] I’ve ever seen of anything in my life,” he recalled. “There was nothing standing except a couple of hard brick buildings. Just ruin everywhere.”

On November 8, 2013, Haiyan, known as Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines, smashed into the archipelago. It made history as the strongest reported tropical cyclone to make landfall. The storm hammered the island nation with maximum sustained winds estimated at 195 miles per hour, killing more than 6,000 people and inflicting massive devastation across the island chain.

A key role player in the US lead humanitarian and disaster relief (HADR) effort, Galoia was the JSOTF-P satellite communications specialist Non-commissioned Officer in charge and is a former 78th Signal Battalion

Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment First Sergeant. He was charged with planning, coordinating and establishing communication links between the joint task teams of varying locations and



military services. Communication between airfields was crucial to the unobstructed flow of relief and aid between the Philippine capital city of Manila and the affected areas.

From Villamor Air Base, Galoia would join crews of cargo transports loaded with materials bound for the U.S. military humanitarian aid personnel dedicated to three main disaster zones.

Upon arriving at a disaster zone, Galoia would interface with both the military personnel and equipment at the site, ensuring that both were capable of carrying communications, as needed. His efforts increased communications capabilities, and helped to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the entire aid effort.

With his duties complete, Galoia would then volunteer to assist with helping to board evacuees for the return flight to the Philippine Air Force Base.

Once back at Villamor AB, the transport would take on more supplies and then set out, again, to repeat their mission.

Galoia’s volunteer efforts assisted in the evacuation of over 300 internationally displaced persons. The memory of one particular flight will remain with him, forever.

On November 21, during a return journey from the City of Tacloban—hardest hit by the storm—he saw a refugee lose consciousness only minutes before reaching Manila. Using his knowledge of basic field medicine, he rushed to her aid. After ensuring that her life was not in immediate danger, he then cared for her throughout the descent.

At the time, he recalled feeling a sense of irony.

“I thought it was going to be a tragedy for her to have survived



the worst typhoon this country has ever seen and then not be able to survive the flight to Manila,” he said.

Upon landing, Galoia carried the young woman from the aircraft to waiting medical personnel on the tarmac. The significance of the effort he was involved in overcame him.

“After I carried her off the flight and I looked back at the group of guys I was with, I was extremely proud to be in the greatest military in the world,” Galoia recalled. “We don’t even know these people, but when their government asked for help, we replied immediately without question. This is why I joined the military. To serve my country and make a difference in our world.”

Knowing he was part of the crucial HADR efforts further heartened Galoia.

“The JSOTF-P greatly improved the quality of life,” he said. “[Evacuated IDPs] went from having nothing, to having medical care, food, and shelter. We were providing these at the critical moment, two or three days after the event, [when it could have meant] life or death for many people.”

What struck him most about his mission was the timeliness of the U.S. military’s humanitarian response time.

“We were the only ones there,” Galoia said. “This went on for about a week after the typhoon. It was Marines, Sailors, Soldiers

and Airmen there, doing the work. It was the pride [I felt] in our country [that struck me]. We should all be proud of these guys.”

On November 30, Col. Robert McDowell, Commander, JSOTF-P, presented Galoia with the Joint Service Achievement Medal and thanked him for his incredible dedication and positive impact on the relief mission.

Galoia was further commended on his performance during the HADR efforts by 78th Signal Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Lisa Whittaker.

“Sgt. 1st Class Galoia continues to do great things for our country, and we are very proud of his contributions,” Whittaker said. “He excels at mission support and is an outstanding member of the 78th Signal Battalion ‘Never Bettered’ family.”



Right: Hundreds of family members from three main disaster zones were evacuated to Manila’s Villamor Air Base aboard an MC-130 cargo aircraft in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, Nov. 20 2013. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Spc. 2nd Class Daniel M. Young) **Top:** Sgt. 1st Class Fa’amasino Galoia, satellite communications specialist, 78th Signal Battalion, providing care and assistance to an evacuee, carries her off a MC130 transport aircraft, Villamor Air Base, Manila, November 21, 2014. The unit helped evacuate over 300 internationally displaced persons. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Spc. 2nd Class Daniel M. Young) **Bottom:** Col. Robert McDowell, Commander, Joint Special Operations task Force-Philippines, presents Sgt. 1st Class Fa’amasino Galoia with the Joint Service Achievement Medal, at Camp Navarro, Zamboanga, Philippines, on November 30, 2013. (Photo by Spc. Andrew Robertson)



Deployed Soldiers, Families Provide and Receive Support Over 7500 Miles Apart



by Ms. Lin Clark Miller,
516th Signal Brigade

HELEMANO MILITARY RESERVATION, Hawaii — At a potluck dinner and Family Readiness Group meeting, here, January 21, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion members welcomed new Soldiers, enjoyed camaraderie and provided support to one another, as they had during Alpha Company's recent nine-month deployment.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Starcher and 111 more A Co. Soldiers provided vital network and communications support to 27 Bases throughout Afghanistan, enabling mission command level support of over 125 Combat missions during the Operation Enduring Freedom deployment that ended in September.

A third of the world away, the care provided by the unit FRG for his and his Soldiers' dependents, gave the headquarters platoon sergeant and his company the added support they needed to accomplish that critical job.

This being Starcher's fifth deployment made them invaluable assets to provide support to other dependents, as well. Helping families like Starcher's wife, Jessica, and sons, Alex and Riley, weather the separation were activities like the Spring Fling, and courses including "Helping Spouses Cope with Deployment," "Helping Children Deal with Deployment and Stay Connected to Both Parents," "Couples Communicating While Miles Apart," and "Seven Steps to Surviving Your Partner's Deployment."

The Starchers attended courses to learn and share. They heard new ideas for coping with stress and feeling alone, and also used previous experience to help others.

"It gave us the chance to help relieve the worries and fears of those experiencing these feelings for the first time," Jessica said. "We were able to help them realize that a lot of the experience — like children acting out or becoming distant — is normal behavior ... and help them acknowledge that feeling lonely or even mad about the situation is okay."

Jessica also welcomed the emotional outlet the classes provided the children.

"Sometimes kids can be more brutal than adults with certain

Members of Alpha Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion Movement Team, Spc. Johnson Hook, Sgt. Leal Safety, and Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge SSgt. Joseph Starcher, await the arrival of a CH-47 Helicopter to transport a satellite terminal from Bagram Airfield to its next destination. Knowing their families back home were in the capable hands of the unit Family Readiness Group made the job of the Soldiers' jobs easier. (Photo by Cpt. Robert Bergdorf, A Co., 307th ESB)

topics...they don't understand. These classes helped them also know they aren't alone," she said, "My boys would [share] things they wanted to do when daddy got home, or what they sent him down range. So these meetings [were] an outlet for all of us."

Eight-year-old Alex encouraged the other kids to find new things to do together when their parent gets home: "I just thought of what we could do when he got home," he said.

Six-year-old Riley suggested they "draw pictures for him and do lots of things so you can tell him about it when he gets back."

The support the families received back home was appreciated over 7,500 miles away, in Afghanistan.

"From a platoon sergeant standpoint, having all the resources available that we did allowed me to focus on the mission at hand, complete any and all missions assigned, take care of the Soldiers in my platoon, and ensure that their families as well as mine were taken care of in our absence," Starcher said. "The chaplain, FRG, and the company did a great job of using all the resources they could."

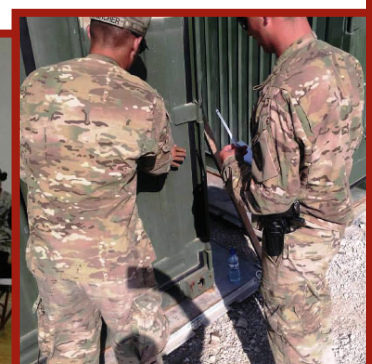
"This was the best, as far as family matters and classes being addressed, for not only my family but the other families in the company," Starcher said, comparing deployments. "It felt good to know that if there was an issue or a problem, the support structure was ready, willing, and able to assist in any matter that may have come up."

At a welcome home and awards ceremony here, redeployed A Co., 307th ESB Soldiers received awards as high as The Bronze Star Medal for their accomplishments down range, while FRG volunteers received Certificates of Appreciation for their work on the home front.

Lt. Col. Mark Miles, Commander, 307th ESB, credited the group for making the unit stronger.

"The work done by the FRG volunteers that we recognized today was truly remarkable. The strength of this company truly comes from the strength of the families."

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) of the 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) provided support to their deployed Soldiers over in Afghanistan. One of the main things the FRG did was throw a welcome home potluck when Alpha Company returned from overseas. (Photos courtesy of 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion)



DET 34

Support Unit Deploys In Support Of OEF

Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command Support Unit board an airplane heading to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army Photo by Avon Cornelius, 311th Signal Command Public Affairs Office)



*by Maj. Avon Cornelius,
311th Signal Command (Theater)*

FORT BLISS, Texas- Soldiers from the 311th Signal Command (Theater) and 335th Signal Command (Theater) stood in silence on a runway in Fort Bliss, Tx., as they saluted a jumbo jetliner bound for Afghanistan. With their heads held high, they bid farewell for now to their peers headed off to do great things for their country.

Twenty-eight Soldiers from the 311th SC(T) Support Unit of Costa Mesa, Calif., deployed with the 335th SC(T) as part of their 34th rotation to Kuwait and Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“This is a great opportunity and a great mission,” said Capt. Jonathan Cecilio, Detachment 34 company commander. Prior to deployment the Soldiers attended an Army Reserve Yellow Ribbon Program event in Dallas, Tx.

“During the deployment process these Yellow Ribbon events allow us to stay connected, even while we are apart,” said Brig. Gen. Garrett Yee, commanding general, 335th SC(T) Forward (Det. 34). “It is important that we continue give each other support during this time.”

Service members and their families attended classes where they were provided information on health care, education and training opportunities, financial services

and legal benefits. The DoD worked with federal partners such as the Small Business Administration, Department of Labor and Department of Veterans Affairs to provide current and relevant information.

“For the Soldiers, it is important that you remember to take care of your families,” said Brig. Gen. Janice Haigler, deputy commanding general, 311th SC(T). “To the families, you have been given a wealth of information to assist you during this time. Please take advantage of this opportunity.”

The Soldiers then went through vigorous pre-mobilization training lead by members of the 75th Training Command at 335th SC(T) headquarters in East Pointe, Ga.

Following pre-mobilization training the Soldiers spent a week processing at the CONUS Replacement Center where they conducted improvised explosive device training, rollover training and qualified on their assigned weapon.

“The training we received both here at Fort Bliss and in East Pointe has instilled confidence in all the members of DET 34,” said Cecillo. “We have no doubt that we will be able to perform our mission downrange.”



Soldiers of the 516th Signal Brigade, HHC pose for a group photo after cutting, trimming, and mowing weeds and overgrown grass around Ft. Shafter Elementary School. (Photo Courtesy by Mrs. Monica Stacy)

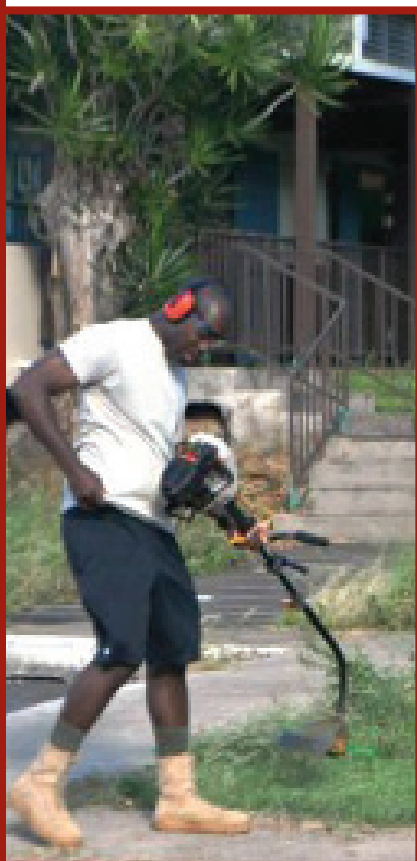


by Capt. Christopher Stacy,
516th Signal Brigade

Ft. Shafter Elementary School Clean-Up

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii --The dog days of summer had wound down and children that live on and near the installation made their way back to Major General William R. Shafter Elementary School, here,

BELOW - Pfc. Randy Russell, an Intelligence Analyst with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 516th Signal Brigade, makes a quick adjustment while trimming back overgrowth at Major General William R. Shafter Elementary School. Unit volunteers jumped in to help spruce up the Fort Shafter school after budget cuts and short staffing left the campus covered with overgrowth when students returned for the first day of school, August 5.



on August 5, the first day of school. The overgrown campus that greeted students and parents was surprising. Seeing how Hawaii's extended growing season and minimal custodial staffing at the school had allowed weeds to dwarf many of the students, one parent's surprise became resolve.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 516th Signal Brigade Commander Cpt. Christopher Stacy decided to partner with the school and bring volunteers from his unit to help tame the wild weeds and give the campus, including a popular area called The Turtle Path back to the students.

"When I saw that the children had to maneuver through waist-high weeds just to raise the colors on the first day of school, I knew that I needed to take action," Stacy said. "My son, Christian, is in his third year here and has experienced nothing less than a positive and caring learning environment. It would be selfish of me to not give back knowing the difficulties that the school faces."

When Stacy took his idea to the top school administrator, Principal Alison Higa explained

that budget cuts and sickness within the custodian ranks accounted for the situation, and gladly accepted his assistance. Faced with budget constraints similar to the military's, the school has also lost personnel, resulting in difficulty maintaining the grounds.

"We employ one full time and two half time custodians, one of which is currently on medical leave," Higa said.

During the first week of school, four Soldiers spent their free time before and after work cutting the grass and weeds around the school grounds. Eleven more showed up before duty on Sept. 6 to pick up trash and cut more grass. Although not a parent, Intelligence Analyst Pfc. Randy Russell jumped at the chance to help out.

"I volunteered as soon as I was made aware of the opportunity," Russell said. "It felt great. Giving back to the community is always a positive feeling." Intelligence Analyst Spc. Brittany Jones agreed, calling the deed, "exhilarating."

"My company --myself included-- value the youth of Fort Shafter and take pride to call this place home," she said. Her two-year-old son is part of her reason she will continue to volunteer at the school. "My son may attend Fort Shafter Elementary," she said. "I will continue to assist, so that while he's there he can share this pride of where he and his friends get an education."

Information Technology Specialist Private 2nd Class Kalynn Mims isn't a parent, but found the endeavor enjoyable. "Helping with cleaning the campus was actually really fun and it made me feel really good inside," she said. "I love helping people, period; but to know that my help is making a better environment for children to learn, explore and grow makes me feel even better." Higa shared that the manicured grounds were well received, and thanked Stacy.

"We are so appreciative of your gracious offer to assist our custodian," she said. Stacy also plans area beautification, like providing school flower beds with much-needed TLC, and may take their efforts indoors.

"Edging, painting, and policing are just a few tasks that we will look into, in the coming weeks," he said, adding, "The school also has a computer lab that was in rough shape last year so we will see if we can assist in that area too." Students are, once again, enjoying their school grounds.

"My son crossed the Turtle Path, daily, on his way to kindergarten," Stacy said. "And now it is back in commission for all to enjoy."



Fern Elementary Jump Rope 4 Heart



by Mrs. Liana Kim,
311th Signal Command (Theater)

Soldiers of the 311th Signal Command, HHC, provide activities for the students of Fern Elementary to do from tug-o-war contests, to relay races, and even an obstacle course. The Soldiers also had tactical vehicles on static display for the children to explore in. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Nikko-Angelo Matos, 311th Signal Command Public Affairs Office)

HONOLULU – Patiently waiting to climb up into the towering Army truck and talk on the tactical radio to their classmates in the adjacent vehicle, the children chatted excitedly, having regained their breath after attempting to knock out a push up in a grown-up sized flak jacket.

About a dozen Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 311th Signal Command (Theater), brought their equipment for static display and interacted with students during Fern Elementary School's annual Drug Free Schools/Jump Rope for the Heart Field Day in Honolulu, Feb. 12.

The Soldiers served as time keepers for the student's obstacle course and provide supplies such as camouflage netting, an EZ-Up shelter, and several tactical vehicles on static display for children to explore. The field day is part of the school's initiative to promote an active healthy lifestyle and introduce students to positive role models and professional opportunities.

"I think the Soldiers provide excellent role models for our students," said Cedric Chu, School Counselor for Fern Elementary. "What we're trying to do with our annual drug free field day, Jump Rope for Heart, is to familiarize our children with healthy activities in life, and show them alternatives to video games, watching TV, and getting in with the wrong crowd. The Soldiers are here with us, providing the obstacle course to help show our students how fun it

is to be fit, and hopefully inspire active lifestyles."

"This is the third consecutive year we were invited to participate in the school's field day," said First Sgt. Rebecca Fisher, HHC, 311th SC(T). She said the Soldiers also enjoy the event as a meaningful way to share positive experiences of outdoor activity with the children to form healthy habits for life.

The Soldiers of the 311th have become acquainted with the faculty, staff and students of Fern Elementary during the past few years cooperative reading program, Read Out Loud!, in which Soldiers read to students once a month. The program began in November of 2011 and has received accolades from teachers that the interaction inspired improved behavior.

The 311th SC(T), headquartered at Fort Shafter, Hawaii, is the designated Signal Command for the Pacific Theater and provides ongoing support for USARPAC TSCP exercises throughout the Pacific and Warfighters around the world.

"We invite all of our Soldiers to participate in Jump Rope for Heart every year at Fern Elementary School," said Capt. Jason Grams. "They look forward to helping the kids with the obstacle course, and interacting and serving as positive adult role models. This drug free event is a great way to demonstrate support for our community."



349th Pounds Mochi with Japan Ground Self-defense Force's



*Capt. Alec Kinczewski,
349th Signal Company*

OKINAWA, Japan – On the morning of December 17, 2013, Soldiers of the 349th Signal Company departed Torii Station to participate in mochi making festivities as the guests of their

it can become a competitive athletic event.

In the usu the wet rice is rhythmically pounded smooth by two persons wielding large wooden mallets called kine. Participants take turns pounding the rice as onlookers cheer, “Yoisho!” (Not translatable, it mimics the sound of the rhythmic



Staff Sgt. Miguel Rodriguez, with 349th Signal Company, pounds mochi with a member of the 15th Signal Company, 15th Brigade, Japan Ground Self-defense Force, during a cultural sharing event hosted last December by the JGSDF unit at Camp Naha, in Okinawa. (Photo by Leading Private Kazuki Miyahira, 15th Signal Company, 15th Brigade, Japan Ground Self-defense Force)

Japanese counterparts, 15th Signal Company, 15th Brigade, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, Camp Naha.

The making of mochi (a Japanese confection pounded from sticky rice and filled with bean paste) is a communal Japanese New Year's tradition. Before the event, the rice is washed and soaked overnight, then steamed the next morning. The wet rice then is poured into a large bowl, usually made of wood, stone, or plastic, called an usu. From there

pounding.)

Once smooth, the rice is removed from the usu for kneading into a ball form. After flavoring the mochi with bean paste placed inside the center, the creation is complete.

Consumption of mochi on New Year's Day is widely practiced in Japan, and believed to ensure longevity and good luck.

According to Spc. Eric Inguanzo, a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear specialist with the

349th, the process of pounding the rice with the kine was competitive, but an enjoyable experience.

“It was a good-natured competition, with the American and Japanese Soldiers pounding the rice, seeing who could go faster and strike the rice harder,” he said. “Our first sergeant (1st Sgt. Dwight A. West) tried to keep up with their command sergeant major (Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Yoshiyuki Masaki), and I think he had better luck than our commander (Cpt. Alec Kinczewski) did, in [competing] with their company commander (Lt. Col. Yukio Miyagawa) and the general (Maj. Gen. Shigeru Kobayashi),” he said, adding, “Everyone had a good time.”

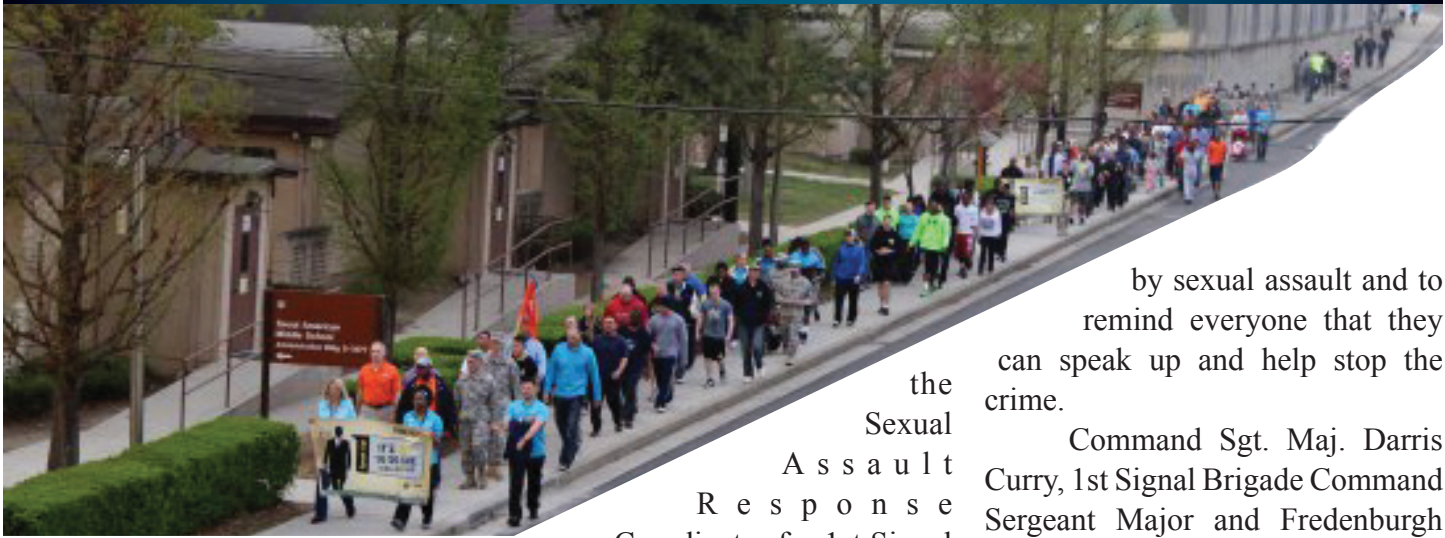
The event was capped with an exchange of small gifts between the command teams and the spirit of continuing bi-lateral relations was shared by all.

The visit to Camp Naha was the second bi-lateral event conducted between the units, and was part of a program created at the company level and headed by 349th Sig. Co. Executive Officer 1st Lt. Alexander Horton.

“The creation of a bi-lateral partnership with the JGSDF was among the top goals of the company for 2013,” Horton said. “Last October we held the first event at Torii Station during which our partners got to use the engagement skills trainer, splice and test some fiber optic cable with our cable team, and then enjoy a barbeque and soccer game. The goal of these events is to foster positive relationships between the units, build understanding, and nurture friendships across the two cultures.”



1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE HOSTS WALK FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS



By Spc. Gregory T. Summers,
1st Signal Brigade

USAG YONGSAN, South Korea

-- As part of the Army's Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the 1st Signal Brigade hosted a Walk a Mile in My Shoes event at the Seoul American High School on USAG Yongsan April 10.

Much like the popular "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" events, 1st Signal Brigade Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention (SHARP) team members created the event to raise awareness because both men and women in the armed forces are affected by sexual assault.

Soldiers from 1st Signal Brigade and 19th Personnel Company, family members and civilians gathered at the high school to show their support for sexual assault awareness and this month's theme: Speak up. A voice unheard is an Army defeated.

Master Sgt. Erica D. Williams,

the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for 1st Signal Brigade said, "It's walk a mile in "my" shoes, because both men and women are being sexually assaulted in the military. We wanted to make the effort to say "walk a mile in my shoes" so everyone understands that anyone can be sexually assaulted and we are here to help them speak out and eliminate sexual assault from our ranks."

Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh III, 1st Signal Brigade Commander, was the guest speaker and said, "Sexual assault is a despicable crime, and anyone who sexually assaults a man, woman or child has no place in our Army Family."

"We serve in the Army to defend our country against its enemies around the world," added Fredenburgh, "but we also need to defend our brothers and sisters in arms, as well as our own families from sexual assault."

The group formed up, marched out on their 1-mile walk to support those everywhere that have been affected

by sexual assault and to remind everyone that they can speak up and help stop the crime.

Command Sgt. Maj. Darris Curry, 1st Signal Brigade Command Sergeant Major and Fredenburgh led a group that stretched as long as a football field on a walk around Yongsan Army Base.

Williams said, "I am very surprised and grateful for all of those that came out to support the walk, especially those from outside 1st Signal Brigade. I am very glad 19th PC came out and joined us."

Williams also said she hopes that the walk will become an annual event to continue to raise awareness against sexual assault in the armed forces.

"When sexual assault happens to one of us, it happens to all of us," Fredenburgh said. "I encourage everyone to speak up if you see, hear or feel something is amiss, and motivate others to do the same. Together we are strong and getting stronger every day."

Soldiers, family members and civilians walk to support sexual assault awareness at the 1st Signal Brigade sponsored Walk a Mile in My Shoes event on USAG Yongsan April 10, 2014. The 1-mile walk served as an opportunity to bring awareness to sexual assault crimes and support the Army's Sexual Assault Awareness Month. (U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Gregory T. Summers)



By Capt. Daniel Koepke
59th Signal Battalion

BLACK RAPIDS TRAINING SITE, Alaska – The temperature is 40 degrees below zero. The sun won't be up for another four hours. It is zero-six-hundred and time for Soldiers to climb out of their thermal shelter and break camp.

This was how 16-hour days began for 59th Signal Battalion Soldiers taking the Northern Warfare Training Center's Cold Weather Orientation Course or Cold Weather Leader's Course. They learned not only how to survive but how to fight and thrive in the arctic climate, here.

Touted on its website as the Army's only cold region training proponent, the NWTC is responsible for training Soldiers and Civilians for the rigors of arctic operations.

"A Soldier trained in winter is also a good summer fighter; trained only in summer he is helpless in the winter!" the website warns.

Open to officers, non-commissioned officers, and medics, the CWOC and CWLC are the two NWTC courses available during the winter months which focus on the knowledge and skills needed to conduct operations at temperatures that seem impossible.

Staff Sgt. Saul Sosa, the battalion information technology team chief, will take the CWLC knowledge he learned back to share with his Soldiers.

"CWLC has given me the first hand experience of the effects cold weather has on both equipment and personnel," he said. "This has proven to be instrumental in allowing me, as a leader, to develop [tactics, techniques and procedures]

that will allow me to effectively and safely complete my mission in an arctic environment."

The range of temperatures during the winter months runs from negative 65—with the wind chill—to 40 above zero, and can fluctuate very quickly from these extremes. During one recent 48-hour period, it went from 43 below zero to 35 above, with rain, and then back to 10 below.

Soldiers must learn to navigate snow-covered terrain using snowshoes or skis while carrying a 45-pound pack and a rifle, and helping to pull an Akhio (a 200-pound sled containing a 10-man arctic tent and a stove). They light several types of stoves, properly set up a tent, fire at targets while wearing snowshoes and using ski poles, build a thermal shelter from snow, trees, and parachute remnants, and master arctic environment camouflage methods.

Everything is learned within the constraints of weather and climate, including wearing heavy gloves at all times, which restrict dexterity, and make simple tasks difficult and hard tasks nearly impossible.

Charlie Company Commander Cpt. Stephen Kubik took the CWOC, and sent twelve other leaders to CWLC

"The most remarked-upon lesson my leaders talk about after returning from class is how long it takes





to complete ordinary tasks. The restrictions cold weather equipment places on the Soldier can at times more than double the time required to complete the same task in a more mild setting, and plays a huge role during the planning of all arctic missions.”

The biting cold saps energy and makes body temperature regulation a constant focus. Soldiers must keep handy several extra clothing items so when the wind picks up or exertion levels drop, they can quickly add more layers.

Equipment function is also adversely affected, since electronic equipment is not rated for temperatures that reach negative 40. Metal or metal casings that go from negative temperatures into a warm tent or shelter will condensate, causing problems for, short-circuiting or rusting electronic items, especially if constantly re-exposed to these conditions.

Fluids such as drinking water and IV bags can freeze solid, rendering them useless. Soldiers can keep some items close to their body, under their outer layers, to stay warm but only until space and weight become issues.

All of the above present challenges few Soldiers can overcome and effectively operate in an arctic



“For additional learning value ... the NWTC purposely blends personnel from various Army branches during CWOC,” he said. “This allowed us to discuss among the team members how the arctic conditions present challenges unique to each other’s branch/MOS that we may not have otherwise been aware of.”

59th Sig. Bn. Executive Officer Maj. Aaron Brown joined Van Meter for the CWOC.

“Fighting in the arctic cold is similar to fighting in desert heat; most units don’t train in those extremes,” he said. “Having an effective combat unit able to

capable Signal Company in the Signal Regiment is Charlie Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, stationed here, at 59th Sig. Bn. And Commander Lt. Col. Dean Denter is keenly aware of the importance of that fact.

“Because those Soldiers train and prepare their equipment in such harsh conditions,” he said “they don’t just survive in the arctic but thrive while providing sustained operations in an environment that demands respect.”

“A Soldier trained in winter is also a good summer fighter; trained only in summer he is helpless in the winter!”

environment.

Battalion S-3 Maj. Benjamin Van Meter found the diversity of fellow CWOC trainees invaluable.

perform their wartime mission, even in the most extreme environmental conditions is a distinct advantage.”

It is telling that the only arctic

Top right: Members of a Cold Weather Leader’s Course Class fire at the range at the Northern Warfare Training Center, AK, last November. Charlie Company, 307th Expeditionary Signal Battalion, stationed here, at 59th Signal Battalion, is the only arctic capable Signal Company in the Signal Regiment. **Bottom right:** A member of Cold Weather Leader’s Course Class 14-01 builds his thermal shelter at Northern Warfare Training Center, AK, last November. Soldiers from 59th Signal Battalion take this, or the Cold Weather Orientation Course, to learn how to survive, how fight and thrive in the frigid arctic climate. **Top left:** An arctic tent, erected by members of Cold Weather Leader’s Course Class 14-01 last November, at the Northern Warfare Training Center, AK, provides a warm shelter. Soldiers from 59th Signal Battalion, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, are taking this, or the Cold Weather Orientation Course, to learn skills that will equip them to survive in the arctic grueling arctic temperatures. (All photos courtesy of Northern Warfare Training Center)

Farewell



**Maj. General James T. Walton,
Commanding General
311th Signal Command (Theater)**
Thank you for your service and
leadership as the 311th Sig. Cmd.
(T) CG.



**Cmd Sgt Maj. Travis L. Cherry,
Command Sergeant Major
311th Signal Command (Theater)**
Thank you for your service and
mentorship as the 311th Sig. Cmd
(T) CSM.

Farewell



**COL Kimberly Rapacz,
Chief of Staff
311th Signal Command (Theater)**
Thank you for your dedication to
the Army, the Signal Corps and the
311th Sig. Cmd (T).

**COL Samuel E. Williams,
Head of Operations
311th Signal Command (Theater)**
Thank you for your service and
dedication as the 311th Sig. Cmd
(T) G3.



Farewell to our faithful Civilian Employees: James Bell, Inspector General for 311th Signal Command (Theater) and Mr. John Tasato, Frequency Management Officer for USARPAC G6. Thank you for your combined 85 years of tireless commitment to the U.S. Department of Defense. You will be long remembered for your many contributions to the 311th Signal Command (Theater).

Welcome Major General Lawrence W. Brock



Congratulations
on your new command
at the 311th Signal
Command (Theater)

Major General Lawrence W. Brock
Commanding General,
U.S. Army Reserve
335th Signal Command (Theater)

In Memorium

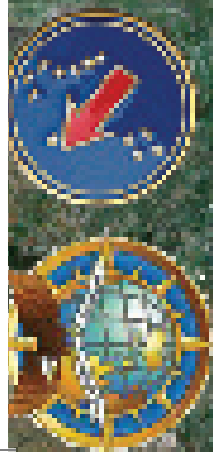
**Mr. Kim
Chang-yun**

Oct. 15, 1957 - Dec. 23, 2013

Engineering technician
with the 251st Signal
Detachment, 1st Signal
Brigade, 311th Signal
Command (Theater)

*You will be truly
missed.*





Upprättning av Utskottet



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3.1.1.4 Signal Command (Theater)



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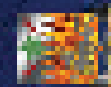
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THEATER VOICE
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THROUGHOUT THE PACIFIC THEATER